



401 N. Morton, Ste. 250 **Bloomington IN 47404**

Get Ynvolved:

GET INVOLVED ... VOLUNTEER!

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department volunteers provide valuable services to the community by assisting in many events and programs in a variety of ways. Volunteers can participate on a regular basis or on occasion as desired. There are many opportunities to choose from and an assortment of times and days available.

Volunteer opportunities exist in the following areas:

- Adult sports
- Clerical services
- Community events
- Cultural arts
- Environmental efforts
- Farmers' Market
- Health and Wellness
- Research/survevs

• Park projects

- Senior citizen programs
- Sustainability efforts
- Inclusion programs
- Trail maintenance
- Tree planting
- Youth sports
- Youth programs

If you would like to be a volunteer with the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department contact the Special Services Coordinator at 812-349-3739.

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department • Volunteer Opportunities 401 N. Morton, Ste. 250 • Bloomington IN 47404

Make friends • Earn service learning credits Gain experience • Have fun

EVENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING: Volunteers will be trained at the beginning of their shifts.

Healthy Valentine's Day

Friday, February 12

Celebrate health, family togetherness and Heart Month during a special

Valentine's-themed evening **Duties:**

Take part in a healthy Valentine's Day when you volunteer for this event! As a volunteer, you'll assist Bloomington Parks and Recreation staff with active games and encourage and assist participants in making heartfelt Valentines

for someone they love!

Program Time:

Location: Banneker Community Center, 930 W. Seventh St.

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 4

Community Gardening

Schedule a day. March-October

Grow closer to local food! Community Gardening grows both plants and community. Since 1984, the Parks and Recreation Department has offered community gardening opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds. A favorite venue of volunteer groups, the gardens benefit from a number of service projects throughout the year.

Volunteers assist the staff in maintaining paths, turning compost, weeding, and harvesting as well as creating and maintaining ornamental, wildlife, and demonstration plantings.

Schedule your group for a three- to four-hour shift Program Time: Locations: Willie Streeter Community Gardens, 2120 S. Highland Ave.

or Butler Park Community Gardens, 812 W. Ninth St.

Age of Volunteers: Number of Volunteers: Groups of 5–25

Volunteer to Maintain our Natural Spaces

Schedule a Day. March-November

Saturday, March 5

Help maintain and restore some of Bloomington's most scenic natural areas. Many group volunteer projects are available throughout the Bloomington community. Help is needed

in the parks listed below. Duties:

Staff will work with your group or organization to formulate a work plan. Duties may include applying wood chips or gravel to paths, removing invasive plant species, trimming obstructive

vegetation, or re-routing trails.

Program Time: Schedule your group for a three- to four-hour shift. Leonard Springs Nature Park, Griffy Lake Nature Preserve,

Wapehani Mountain Bike Park, RCA Park, Winslow Woods Park, and Bryan Park.

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: Groups of 5–25

Seusspicious Behavior

Don't sit at home with nothing to do! Come to the library for a birthday woo-hoo. It's Seusspicious Behavior, so the folks say And we're celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday. Bloomington North performs a play that is funny Come to the library; you don't need any money! See a lot of good tricks. We will show them to you. Your mother will not mind at all if we do! With snacks and crafts and fun games to play,

Bloomington Parks and Recreation makes a Seussrific day! **Duties:** Seuss-like volunteers are needed

to assist with hands-on activities that include crafts and games. In addition, assist with setup and teardown of the event.

noon-4:30 p.m.

Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave.

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 10

Program Time:

Leonard Springs Nature Days



Tuesday, March 22 Tuesday, March 29 Tuesday, April 5 Tuesday, April 12 Tuesday, May 8 (rain date)

Volunteer to teach area sixth grade students about our awesome natural heritage through multiple stations including karst, creeks, wetlands, and forests.

If you have an interest in the outdoors and enjoy working

with children, sign up for our Leonard Springs Nature Day programs. Station facilitators and group leaders are needed.

Program Time:

Training: Volunteers have access to online training materials. Additional questions regarding roles will be addressed the day of your shift. Leonard Springs Nature Park, 4685 S. Leonard Springs Rd.

Location: Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 18 per day

Bloomington Girls Softball Player Assessment Day

Designed for the beginning through advanced player, this league focuses on responsible competition, including skill building and a complete understanding of the game. League offers several levels of play ranging from tee ball to fastpitch for players ages 4-15 yrs. Volunteers step up to the plate and help with

the player evaluation and team placement process. In an effort to level the competition, players in each league are evaluated on their throwing, fielding, hitting, and catching abilities. Players are awarded a performance score, then are assigned a team. Volunteers assist staff in running stations and consistently evaluating player skill levels using an evaluation tool.

Program Time: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 10

Children's Expo

Sunday, April 10

Saturday, April 2

The Children's Expo is a parents' treasure trove for informational educational, and recreational resources for school-age children. The Expo continues to offer free health screenings by qualified healthcare professionals for children ages 10 yrs. and younger.

Calling all volunteers interested in child development. Add a festive atmosphere to

the event, help professionals perform children' health screenings, assist at the welcome table, provide vendor hospitality, and much more!

Program Time: Shift #1, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m./Shift #2, 1:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Location: Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center,

302 S. College Ave. Age of Volunteers:

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up **Number of Volunteers:** 10–15 per shift

Earth Week-Trail Cleanup

Sunday, April 17 Celebrate Earth Week with a spring cleanup of the Lower Cascades Creek Trail.

Duties: Immerse yourself in the wonders of nature at one of Bloomington's most beautiful parks! Help us maintain our

trails with a spring cleanup of Lower Cascades Creek Trail. We'll provide bags and gloves, and together we'll keep our trails litter free.

Program Time: 1-3 p.m.

Lower Cascades Park, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37— Location:

Age of Volunteers: For all ages (Children under age 14 yrs. must be accompanied by an adult.)

Number of Volunteers: 25

Earth Week

Earth Week-Lake Cleanup

Paddle around Griffy Lake and help clean up one of our most precious local resources during Earth Week.

Celebrate our Earth and its amazing natural resources by volunteering to help keep our local lake clean and sparkling. Duties:

Bags, boats, and gloves are provided.

5:30–7:30 p.m.

Program Time: Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, 3300 N. Headley Rd. Age of Volunteers For all ages (Children under age 14 yrs. must be accompanied

by an adult.)

Number of Volunteers: 25–50

Earth Week

Thursday, April 21

Learn to Ride

T-W-Th, May 3-5, 4-5:30 p.m. T-W-Th, May 10-12, 5-6:30 p.m.

Children will spend the entire summer cruising on their bicycles after this Bloomington Bikes Week program. Participants learn how to confidently and safely ride their bikes through individual instruction, and also learn about bike maintenance, road safety, and proper bike and helmet fittings.

Duties: Proper instruction is an important

aspect of bicycle riding. Volunteers collaborate with Parks and Recreation staff to teach children riding etiquette and techniques that will keep them safe as they ride their bikes.

Program Time: 4–5:30 p.m. or 5–6:30 p.m.

Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, 2700 E. Rogers Rd.—

southeast corner of parking lot

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 4–6 per day

Sign up for one or both sessions of Learn to Ride. Volunteers Other: will do a lot of running. Class will be rescheduled in case of

inclement weather.

The 50+ Expo: Tuesday, May 10/Event Setup A Healthy, Active, and Wednesday, May 11/Event **Creative Lifestyle Event**

For more than 40 years, the 50+ Expo has been the

community's premier showcase of businesses and organizations whose products and services are geared toward people ages 50 years and up.

Volunteers may decorate, direct exhibitors to their spaces, greet Duties:

participants, distribute 50+ Expo information, collect participant feedback, and tear down the event.

Program Time: Tuesday: 2-5 p.m. (10 volunteers)/Event setup

Wednesday shifts:

Shift #1, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (5 volunteers)/Exhibit hall

Shift #2, 2:30-4:45 p.m. (2 volunteers)/Welcome table greeters Shift #3, 3–5 p.m. (2 volunteers)/General Expo and evaluations Shift #4, 4:30-7 p.m. (2 volunteers)/Welcome table

Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING: Volunteers are required to attend a volunteer orientation prior to program.

Leisure Companion

January-April

The Leisure Companion Program is a service in which participants with disabilities are partnered with a volunteer companion who provides additional support during participation in inclusive activities. The level of support will vary according to the specific needs of each individual.

Duties: As a Leisure Companion, you facilitate inclusion by

advocating for the participant, providing support during activities, protecting the dignity of the participant, emphasizing similarities of participants, creating an environment for success, encouraging independent participation, and most of all, being a

supportive friend! **Program Time:**

Dates and times will vary according to program needs. Locations Location of events and programs vary depending on program

registration. 16 yrs. and up

Banneker Afterschool Program

Age of Volunteers:

Twice weekly, January 4-May 27

Help students excel in math and reading by volunteering to read with students and review basic school-age mathematics. Additionally, facilitate activities in art and science and engage children in active games that stimulate creativity and critical thinking. Whether you enjoy working with youth or have professional

aspirations to, this service opportunity gives you hands-on experience. Tutor one-on-one or in small groups weekly.

Program Time: 3:30-5 p.m., Monday-Thursday

Fairview Elementary School, 500 W. Eighth St. Location:

Age of Volunteers: Number of Volunteer rs: 8–10 per day

We ask that you commit to two days a week for the entire Other:

semester.

18 yrs, and up

Bloomington Youth Basketball-Season III and Middle School

This league focuses on basketball fundamentals and the application of learned skills during game participation. All leagues are coed through grade 3; girls play in a girls-only league beginning in grade 4. Middle school



January 18-

boys and girls also play on separate teams. Season includes weekly practices and games one night a week. The season concludes with a single-elimination tournament. Teams practice two nights a week for the first two weeks of the season (practice times are decided by the coach), then one night a week for the remainder of the season. Practices begin the week of January 18. Games begin the week of February 1. Join us for the satisfaction of playing in a fun and positive setting where everyone learns the game of basketball. We are looking for coaches who can commit to once -or twice-Duties:

weekly practices and one game per week. Volunteer coaches will enjoy making a difference in the lives of kids and can help develop our next big IU basketball star. (We suggest two

coaches per team.) Time line:

Prospective coaches must sign up by Thursday, January 7. Coach selection process completed by Tuesday, January 12. Selected coaches must attend mandatory coaches meeting either Wednesday, January 13 at 7 p.m. OR Thursday, January 14, at 5:30 p.m. at the Twin Lakes Recreation Center.

All selected coaches must complete an online coaching certification course from the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA). NYSCA certification must be completed by first practice. The certification fee for each coach is \$20. The online training is available at nays.org. Scholarships are available to offset expenses associated with the online training. For scholarship information, contact Jeigh Hockersmith at 812-349-3774 or hockersj@bloomington.in.gov.

Program Time: Coaches plan and lead one or two one-hour practices per week

and one, one-hour game per week. Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.

Location: Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 50

Other:

Returning coaches and parents have first priority for placement. Volunteers should commit for the entire season.

Soccer Sport Shorties

Tuesdays, February 2-March 8

The indoor turf field at the Twin Lakes Recreation Center is the ideal place for preschool athletes to learn the basic skills of team soccer! Athletes take part in fun, recreational drills to develop kicking, passing, and ball handling skills in this weekly program.

Duties:

Location:

Are you a soccer fanatic? Do you like children at the adorable ages of 3–6 yrs.? Here is your chance to help develop the next IU soccer superstar.

Work with Bloomington Parks and Recreation staff to run an introductory soccer program geared toward preschoolers. 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Program Time:

Coaches' Orientation—Tuesday, February 2, 9:30 a.m. at Training the Twin Lakes Recreation Center (immediately prior to

> the first session) Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 2

Adopt-a-Trail

April 2016-March 2017 Monthly inspections/ One-vear commitment

More than 30 trail miles in Bloomington's city parks need periodic inspections and maintenance to remain safe and usable. Volunteers have been valuable in establishing and maintaining our trails for many years. Parks and Recreation staff provide training and equipment to volunteer groups of any size for monthly trail monitoring and annual

Duties:

Time line:

Inspect adopted trail at least once a month. Complete and submit reports on trail status. Provide basic maintenance during each visit as needed. Do at least one work day per year. Staff works with your group or organization to formulate a work plan. Volunteers must submit an online application by February 26. An orientation takes place in late March. One-year appointment starts April 1.

Program Time:

Trail inspections can be completed at your leisure. Schedule your trail work day with the Adopt-a-Trail coordinator.

Various trails are available for adoption.

Locations: Age of Volunteers:

12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. Recruitment class determined by number of trails available. Adopt-an-Acre

Duties:

Duties:

Duties

April 2016-March 2017 Monthly visits/ One-vear commitment

Adopt-an-Acre is an all-volunteer program that gives the public the opportunity to actively address Monroe County's invasive plant issues. Griffy Lake Nature Preserve has thriving populations of bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard, winter creeper, privet, and multiflora rose, all of which are outcompeting native plants. Parks and Recreation staff provide the necessary training in invasive plant identification and equip volunteers to proactively monitor and remove impeding plants within their adopted areas.

Inspect and make progress in removing invasive plants in adopted area of Griffy Lake Nature Preserve a minimum of once a month. Complete and submit monthly progress reports. Attend quarterly training workshops or review electronic training materials to adequately identify invasive plants and learn

proper techniques for removing. Schedule a minimum of one structured work day per year. Staff works with you or your group

to formulate a work plan. Time line:

Volunteers must submit an online application by February 26. An orientation takes place the week of March 21. One-year

appointment starts April 1.

Program Time: Inspections and progress visits can be completed at your leisure. Various parcels of land are available for adoption at Griffy Lake Locations: Nature Preserve. There are plot sizes appropriate for individuals

and for groups.

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. We will continue the second year of the program with 5-7 volunteers or

volunteer groups.

Bloomington Community Farmers' Market

Saturdays, **April 2-November 26**

FARMERS MARKET

Thursdavs.

April 9-July 17

From April through November, farmers and vendors fill Showers Common with locally grown produce, annual and perennial plants, and freshly baked bread for the Saturday morning Market. Local musicians perform while thousands of people find their way among the corn and tomatoes, local dairy products, and warm scents of fresh herbs. The Market often feels like equal parts shopping, socializing, and treasure hunt. Come early so you can amble among friends as you seek out that dried lavender or fresh basil you have been dreaming about.

> volunteer opportunity for you! Work collaboratively with the Market supervisor with special events associated with Market and promote Bloomington Parks and Recreation programs by

If you enjoy the ambiance of the Farmers' Market, this is the

staffing the Bloomington Parks and Recreation table. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Program Time: Showers Common, Eighth and Morton Streets Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 1–4

Volunteer for one to four Saturdays a month. Other:

Bloominaton Walking Club

April 7-October 27 Join a fun and informal gathering of walkers to develop healthy physical activity habits and meet new friends. Walkers choose from a two- or four-mile route and go at their own pace. Presented by IU Health Bloomington, Southern Indiana Physicians,

Purdue Extension, and Bloomington Parks and Recreation. Duties:

Embrace a healthy lifestyle and share it with others from the Bloomington community. Lead the walking group on their twoor four-mile route. Ensure safety and provide encouragement

along the way. 5:45–7:15 p.m. **Program Time:**

Location: Olcott Park, 2300 E. Canada Dr. Age of Volunteers:

18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 1-2

Bloomington Girls Softball

Designed for the beginning through advanced player, this league focuses on responsible competition, including skill building and a complete understanding of the game. This league offers several levels of play ranging from tee ball to fastpitch for players ages 4-15 yrs.

Pitch, hit, field, and throw. Volunteers step up to the plate as season-long coaches and teach the fundamentals of fastpitch softball. Coaches plan practices by integrating various drills and prepare their teams for game competition. Here is your chance to put your mark on tomorrow's athlete.

Prospective coaches must sign up by Friday, March 25. Time line: Coach selection process completed by Tuesday, March 29. Selected coaches are strongly encouraged to attend the coaches

meeting immediately following player evaluations on Saturday, April 2, at 2:30 p.m. at Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.

→ continued in next column

All selected coaches must complete an online coaching certification course from either the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) or the Amateur Softball Association (ASA). NYSCA certification is \$20 and ASA certification is \$25. The course must be completed prior to the first practice. Scholarships are available to offset expenses associated with the online training. For scholarship information, contact Jeigh Hockersmith at 812-349-3774 or hockersj@bloomington.in.gov. Practices begin the week of April 9.

Program Time: Coaches will be assigned one or two one-hour practices per

week and one, one-hour game per week. Coaches are needed for all age groups. Must be willing to become NYSCA or ASA certified and work from a set practice schedule from April-July.

Winslow Sports Complex, 2800 S. Highland Ave. and Lower Cascades Softball fields, 2851 N. Old State Road 37.

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 30–35

Locations:

Program Time:

Training:

Time line:

Age of Volunteers:

Tee Ball Sport Shorties Saturdays, April 30-June 11

Sport Shortie participants learn the basic skills of baseball in a fun and safe atmosphere where parent participation is welcomed and encouraged. Duties:

Children experience the FUNdamentals of team sports at an early age. Do you like children at the adorable ages of 3-6 yrs.? Do you want to be a next generation IU coach? Here's your chance to help develop our next Albert Pujols, Derek Jeter, or Derrek Lee.

Work with Parks and Recreation Department staff to run an introductory baseball program geared toward preschoolers. Coaches are assigned one, one-hour shift between 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Coaches Orientation: Thursday, April 28, 5:30-6:15 p.m. at the Banneker Community Center, 930 W. Seventh St

Location: Lower Cascades Park, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37 18 yrs. and up

Age of Volunteers: Number of Volunteers: 15

and annual stream maintenance.

Adopt-a-Stream May 2016-April 2017 Monthly inspections/

One-year commitment Adopt a Stream is an all-volunteer program that gives the public an opportunity to be actively involved in conserving and maintaining the natural wealth and beauty of streams that run through public park property owned by the City of Bloomington and Monroe County. Staff provides training and equipment for monthly stream monitoring

Inspect adopted stream at least once a month. Complete

and submit reports on stream condition. Provide general maintenance such as removing debris and litter. Attend a Hoosier Riverwatch workshop and perform water quality monitoring tests at the stream at least four times per year. Schedule a minimum of one structured work day per year.

Staff works with you or your group to formulate a work plan. Volunteers must submit an online application by April 8. An orientation takes place in late April. One-year appointment

starts May. Stream inspections can be completed at your leisure.

Program Time: Various streams are available for adoption in Bloomington Locations: and Monroe County.

12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. Recruitment class determined by number of streams available.

Park Ambassador

May 2016-April 2017 Weekly inspections/ One-year commitment

The Park Ambassador Program promotes community stewardship and bridges the communication between the community and the Parks and Recreation Department, and sends a message that the community cares about its parks.

Park Ambassadors become public stewards of the Bloomington **Duties:** Parks and Recreation Department. Through weekly visits to

local parks, Ambassadors document maintenance needs, report acts of vandalism, interact with park users, promote park safety, and encourage an overall positive use of public space.

Volunteers must submit an online application by February 26; Time line: screening interviews take place in March; orientation takes place

in April. One-year appointment starts May 1. Each visit requires approximately a one-hour assessment followed by the completion of a brief observation report. Program Time:

Various parks are available. Locations: Age of Volunteers: 21 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 1 volunteer per identified park